Premature release/remission of women prisoners

1758. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central and State Governments have been approached to consider premature release or remission of sentence of women prisoners who are suffering from serious ailments and also release such women prisoners who are above 60 years of age and have served a major part of their sentence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the year 2001 has been earmarked as the year of Empowerment for Women; and

(c) if so, what is reaction of the Central Government so that the State Governments could follow-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) As per the information received from the National Commission for Women, a Member of the Commission approached the State Government/Union Territories to consider the premature release of women prisoners who are above 65 years of age.

(b) Yes, Sir. !

(c) 'Prisons' is a State subject, as per entry 4 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. It is, therefore, for the State Governments to take a view in the matter.

Harassment of Tourists by Immigration Officials

1759. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report published in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated 2nd November, 2001 under the caption "Off loaded for not looking like a tourist";

(b) if so, facts of the incident; and

(c) the steps to check corrupt practices and incidents of harassment of genuine tourists/ passengers by the immigration officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One Shri Manjit Singh was off loaded at IGI airport, New Delhi by the Immigration Staff on 23.10.2001 while he was departing to Bangkok as suspicion arose that rather than his being a genuine tourist for Thailand, he was attempting to illegally migrate to some other country. The suspicion arose as the passenger was unable to answer basic questions such as location of the Thailand Embassy in New Delhi, the mode of his payment for the visa for Thailand, his purpose of visit, places he would like to visit in Thailand and absence of any hotel booking in Bangkok etc.

(c) Immigration staff at various International Airport are regularly sensitized and advised on the need to be courteous and tactful while dealing with tourists and passengers. Other steps have also been taken to check corrupt practices and incidents of harassment of genuine passengers by the Immigration Officers such as:

(i) Special stamps to identify the clearing officers.

(ii) Display boards have been installed to provide information to the passengers;

(iii) Complaint boxes have been provided at arrival/departure side.

(iv) Surprise checks by senior officers;

(v) CCTV Cameras to keep vigil over the staff;

(iv) stringent punishment to erring officials.

Posters supporting Jehad by Laden in Kanpur

1760. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unrest spread out in certain parts of the country like Kanpur after posters supporting Jehad by Bin Laden, came up; and

(b) if so, the action taken against those involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) In connection with the call for Jehad by Osama Bin Laden incidents/ demonstrations etc. by the Muslims in favour of and by the Hindus against the same have been reported from some places in the country.